

FARMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICY AND PROCEDURE



Policy Number:
246-07

Effective Date:
09/28/2016

Subject:
Search and Rescue

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S.D. Hebbe".

Steven D. Hebbe, Chief of Police



PURPOSE:

To establish guidelines for response to incidents involving the search and rescue of lost persons, or persons in need of organized rescue efforts.

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Farmington Police Department to respond to incidents which require searches for missing persons, or any type of rescue operation in which organized rescue efforts are required.

PROCEDURE:

Pursuant to NMSA 24-15A-3, the New Mexico State Police are responsible for all search and rescue missions in the State of New Mexico. The Department's involvement in such an operation is to provide a support function only.

Search and Rescue Operations:

1. Upon receiving a search and rescue call the Dispatch Center will send the first available patrol officer to the scene;
2. The Dispatch Center will notify the on duty supervisor of the situation;
3. The first responding officer shall conduct a thorough search of the area with assisting officers if necessary, or evaluate the situation so other emergency personnel can be directed effectively;
4. Once the supervisor is at the scene, they may relieve the first responding officer of the scene command;
5. The supervisor is responsible for setting up a command post to direct emergency activities if necessary. This includes gathering information from involved parties and requesting assistance from outside agencies;
6. Once a preliminary search has proven unsuccessful, the supervisor shall contact the coordinator of search and rescue of the State Police for assistance. When the State Police coordinator arrives at the scene all search efforts will be coordinated through them;

7. Upon contacting the State Police Search and Rescue coordinator, the supervisor shall also notify the Chief of Police via the chain of command pursuant to policy #112-01, Direction and Supervision;
8. The supervisor shall monitor the situation until relieved by another supervisor, or until a successful resolution of the mission has been accomplished;
9. It shall be the responsibility of the on scene officers to provide crowd control to facilitate the rescue effort;
10. It will be the decision of the scene commander in charge, to terminate any search and rescue operation.